

**Reading Tips and Study Questions: For Session 21
Planning and Civic Capacity (B)—November 28th**

Required reading

1. (Case) Briggs, "The Grassroots-to-Grasstops Dynamic: Slum Redevelopment and Accountability in Mumbai," chapter 5 in *Democracy as Problem-Solving: Civic Capacity in Communities across the Globe*, Forthcoming, MIT Press, 2008.

Further reading (optional)

2. Briggs, "Conclusion," chapter 12 in [same as above]. Outlines and discusses the six major lessons of the four-nation study, plus democracy: how *should* it work?

Tips and questions

1. *Diagnosing the context.* Mumbai is a changing global city with a variety of large-scale development challenges. Why do slumdweller have political leverage in this context? That is, what are the specific sources of that leverage? And how does *partnering* give people at the "grassroots" the chance to shape outcomes with those at the "grasstops" (authority figures and other influentials) beyond "citizen participation" to make requests of public officials?
2. *Thinking about the role of organizations—which are overlooked in much "planning" literature—in improving planning and getting things done.* Implicit in the case are a wide variety of roles for professional planners: from designing housing and neighborhoods to financing real estate development deals, spurring organizational learning across agencies and along international (or "transnational") networks, analyzing and reforming public policy (including regulations and subsidy programs), and more. But these functions are carried out within and across *organizations* that have come to play distinct roles in urban development in Mumbai (the case focuses on slum redevelopment as a specific category of development). What are those organizational roles, according to the chapter, and how did they evolve through specific projects?